

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

transmitting data symbols from a media access control layer (MAC) processing element to a second processor; and  
monitoring a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to determine if the data symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining whether the RSSI value drops below a predetermined threshold.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising monitoring the RSSI value if it is determined that the RSSI value has not dropped below the predetermined threshold.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising setting one or more timers if it is determined that the RSSI value has dropped below the predetermined threshold.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the second processor is a baseband processor.

6. A computer system comprising a network controller, the network controller including a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP) that monitors a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission of all data symbols from the network controller has been completed.

7. The computer system of claim 6 wherein the network controller further comprises a baseband DSP coupled to the MAC DSP, wherein the MAC DSP begins to monitor the RSSI value after all data symbols have been transmitted from the media access layer DSP to the baseband DSP.

1 8. The computer system of claim 7 wherein the baseband DSP comprises:

2 a baseband state machine;

3 a coding element coupled to the baseband state machine; and

4 a modulation element coupled to the coding.

1 9. The computer system of claim 8 wherein the network controller further

2 comprises:

3 a digital to analog converter (DAC) DSP coupled to the baseband DSP; and

4 an analog to digital converter (ADC) DSP coupled to the baseband DSP.

1 10. The computer system of claim 9 wherein the network controller further

2 comprises:

3 a transceiver that transmits the RSSI to the MAC DSP; and

4 an antenna coupled to the transceiver.

1 11. The computer system of claim 1 further comprising:

2 a system input/output (I/O) bus coupled to the network controller;

3 a bridge/memory controller coupled to the system I/O bus; and

4 a processor coupled to the bridge/memory controller.

1 12. A network controller comprising:

2 a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP) that monitors a

3 receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission of all data

4 symbols from the network controller has been completed;

5 a baseband DSP, coupled to the MAC DSP; and

6 a digital to audio converter DSP coupled to the baseband DSP.

1 13. The network controller of claim 12 wherein the baseband DSP comprises:

2 a baseband state machine;

a coding element coupled to the baseband state machine; and  
a modulation element coupled to the coding element.

14. The network controller of claim 12 further comprising:  
a transceiver, coupled to the DAC DSP, that transmits the RSSI to the MAC DSP;  
and  
an antenna coupled to the transceiver.

15. An article of manufacture including one or more computer readable media that  
embody a program of instructions wherein the program of instructions, when executed by  
a processing unit, causes the processing unit to:  
transmit data symbols from a media access control layer (MAC); and  
monitor a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to determine if the data  
symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 15 wherein the program of instructions, when  
executed by a processing unit, further causes the processing unit to determine whether the  
RSSI value drops below a predetermined threshold.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a  
processing unit, further causes the processing unit to monitor the RSSI value if it is  
determined that the RSSI value has not dropped below the predetermined threshold.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a  
processing unit, further causes the processing unit to set one or more timers if it is  
determined that the RSSI value has dropped below the predetermined threshold.